

Around the Services

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Larry McTighe



Current NASCAR Winston Cup champion Dale Jarrett climbs from the Air Force car after its debut in Atlanta.

Military Racers Join NASCAR Circuit

Atlanta, Ga. — Five branches of the armed forces have teamed up with the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing to target NASCAR fans in support of military recruiting efforts. The special program is called "Tribute to Freedom in the Millennium."

Five NASCAR Winston Cup drivers, their respective sponsors, and other private corporations developed the program, which features race cars painted with military service branch themes.

The cars were unveiled before a race in March at the Atlanta Motor Speedway. The unveiling ceremony included a skydiving exhibition by Fort Benning, Ga.'s Silver Wings parachute team, musical performances by the Air Force Reserve Band and aircraft demonstrations.

Retired GEN Colin Powell and military officials gathered at the start/finish line to greet drivers Mike Skinner, Bobby Hamilton, Ricky Rudd, Dale Jarrett and Jerry Nadeau as each brought his military-themed car on-track for the first time.

All five "Tribute to Free-

dom in the Millennium" cars made their race debuts on Memorial Day weekend at the Coca-Cola 600 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte, N.C. — *Air Force News*

Testing Joint Procurement

Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

— The Air Force's Standard Systems Group called in the Army and Marine Corps in March to help develop procedures for using the Standard Procurement System in contingency environments.

During the five-day Procurement Force Experiment, contracting and computer spe-

cialists from the Air Force Contracting Information Systems Program Office worked with contracting troops from the other services to test operational concepts and procedures for deploying the system.

More than 18,000 soldiers, airmen and marines at 600 installations around the world will use SPS for routine day-to-day contracting transactions. Air Force Space Command Contracting Superintendent Chief Master Sgt. George Dupin said experimenting in a contingency environment is a key factor in the success of any software that will be used by all the services during real-world deployments. — *Staff Sgt. Beverly Isik, USAF Standard Systems Group Public Affairs*

Navy Begins Honorary Members Program

Washington — Former White House press secretaries Marlin Fitzwater and Mike McCurry became honorary crew members of the Navy destroyers USS *Arleigh Burke* and USS *Marc Mitscher*, respectively, during a recent Pentagon ceremony.

This was the beginning of



Navy Secretary Richard Danzig explains the Honorary Members Program during a recent Pentagon press conference.

Jim Garamone



Staff Sgt. Beverly Isik

Tech. Sgt. Cheryl Martin checks a laptop computer in a Standard Procurement System Kit.

the Navy's Honorary Members Program, which allows distinguished civilians to become honorary members of a crew or unit.

Navy Secretary Richard Danzig said the program will allow the civilians to "carry the message of the ship or unit back to America. As a relatively declining number of Americans have experience in military service, one problem we have is how do we relay a sense of military experience to the public."

Other notables to be initiated soon are author Maya Angelou, San Diego Padres owner Larry Luchino, soccer star Mia Hamm, futurist Peter Schwartz, financier Dennis Bovin, football star Chad Hennings, and retired Marine Corps colonel and television star Ed McMahon. — *Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service*